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## OUR FRENCH LETTER.

PARIS, October 25.

Something like playing at nihilism, tempered with communism, is taking place in different parts of the country. It is not exactly clear what it all means; the trial and arrest of some of the active adherents, rather than ringleaders, do not disclose very much beyond organized rowdiness. The organization appears to be an adopted son of the *Internationale*, and a distant son of nihilism. Anarchists is the general name the knaves, the idiots and the lunatics aspire to be known by. All is fish no matter how stale, that comes to the net. Dynamite threatening letters, incendiary proclamations are some of the measures resorted to for the extirpation of the middle classes. The government has nipped the evil—perhaps in the bud; but this eruption under the republic is not the less painful. It now behooves the threatened order, to this time, present a resolute front to the communistic revival. The healthy feature about the ulcer is that the honest working man keeps aloof from the levellers.

The monarchists of all classes make capital out of this conspiracy of the roughs; predict the extinction of the republic before the arrival even of the millennium. But this is to sell the skin of the bear before having killed the bear. They sigh for an old Dandolo touch; of an eighteen Brunsaire or a two December. It is not from either the anarchists or the monarchists that the Republic runs danger, but from the continued internal strife among its devotees. The efforts to bring about discipline and conciliation, make no way. The parliamentary institution has weak legs. Deputies are not educated up to that point of the English constitution, when it becomes necessary to put personal inclinations aside, and accept what the nation, the majority wills. The next session will be very important, as if the representatives oust the ministry—the most likely event in the world, legislation will be brought to a standstill, and which will fatally react on public opinion. The *Scrutin de liste* would not be used, and general elections, without being conducted on that plan, would only aggravate the evils existing.

Egypt commences to be forgotten, occasionally a chauvinistic journal utters a shriek about the "acquired rights" of France on the Nile, people smile at the cry, and others inwardly exclaim, name! name! It only remains for England to reconstitute Egypt, and to take good care that no foreign nation shall scheme her out of her present invulnerable position and unquestionably "acquired rights." In secretly executing a codical to the Bardo treaty, France has indicated the duty of England. The solution of Tunisia is that of Egypt. M. de Lesseps gives no sign of life; the prospect of the barbarians making a second canal has acted as a stimulant, and further, there is no knowing what dance England may lead him, if the administration of the canal, that took sides with the rebellion, be overhauled at the conference, to which de Lesseps has appealed. The Americans say he is closely occupied solving how to prevent earthquakes swallowing up the Panama speculation, a speculation in which it is easier to buy shares than to sell them.

The passage at arms between the Africans, Stanley and de Brazza has not been personally to the advantage of the former. The Stanley Club is composed of foreign press men, and we have a Bohemian organization, meet as it were unexpectedly, to entertain some notoriety, and then cease to exist till the next merry meeting. As Bruce observed of the fly, there is room enough in the world for us two, so Africa ought to be sufficiently large for pioneers. Stanley was angry. He showed he was jealous of a once subordinate, eclipsing in the eyes of France, his leader. It was bad taste to allude to Stanley not being in court costume, after wandering months in the interior, where neither a Poole nor a Dusautoy was to be had. De Brazza, like the *sans culottes*, marched all the same to victory, and if he persuaded King Makoko to cede his territory to France—what has yet to be controlled, why he deserves more honor than Stanley who could not effect that miracle. The allusion to the tricolors being made to do duty for Manchester calicoes, was funny, but not wise, and the criticism on De Brazza's high traveling expenses, concerned only the French geographical society. At the close of the harangue, de Brazza dropped in like Puck; delivered an impromptu "well-prepared" speech; two events that had greater effect on Stanley than his famous naval engagement during his first voyage. Mutual friends have prevented the quarrel degenerating into a duel. Outside states have to see, that neither de Brazza nor Stanley acquire a position either above or below the Congo, with Makoko or any other *rotulets*, that would fetter trade and the march of civilization into the bowels of the land.

The press devotes special attention to the strike on the part of the wood carvers and upholstery trades—the tapestry departments more especially. It really differs from no previous strike; the men set forth the points of their charter; the employers become as suddenly wrathful as King David, display a long nose, and knock down, agreeing with Dr. Pangloss, that after all the world was created for the carpet trade. It is the public who in the end pays; prices for beef and butter mount, we are told, provisionally, but refrain permanently from coming down. The same for

carpets, etc. The effects are serious; productions are run up in price, and are undersold by other nations who have a place in the sunshine. The consequences of the success of French strikes may be vividly read in the diminishing exportations of the country.

Messrs. Moody and Sankey have terminated their Paris campaign. The French put them and the Salvationists in the same sack. Except in a very limited circle of followers, they created no sensation. The singing passed off well, but the rest was only so so. French congregations must be addressed by the head; they are not so much an irregularity, as an indifferent people. In their protestantism, there is nothing emotional nor place sensatinal, and above all, nothing commonplace. This will explain why the French cannot comprehend the notoriety acquired by the American preachers. As for the Solvatinists, they are simply revived as curiosities.

During the joint expedition of the English and French in China, the latter were commended by the Comte de Palikao, who cut up badly at the fall of the Second Empire; his private secretary was Comte de Herisson, now a deputy and an official. It was well known that Palikao had written anything but complimentary remarks about his allies to the Minister of War—though he took care to secure his share of the loot of the Summer Palace. Comte d'Herisson, obtained permission to copy these despatches, with the view of publications; he pressed the work forward, so that it might appear during the anglo-phobia fever. Harrier, as England had shown, what she would do and could do, if put to it, the French government became uneasy, and seized the whole edition. But the book will be brought out in Belgium, and England will have another proof of the drawbacks of the "joint control" system.

As the French will not go to Algeria—nor any other colony, it is proposed to bring the Arabs to France, in the form of soldiers, and after training them in the southern parts of the country, send them back to the place from whence they came. While here, they will receive all the comforts of a home. Mosques will be built for them, and harems tolerated. France will then have four endowed churches—Catholic, Protestant, Israelitish and Mahomedan.

The suicides continue, and from every motive, the most general being, *tedium vite*. The Seine casts up rather an unpleasant number of corpses, with no means of being identified. Some suggest misery, others a comfortable position in life. An affectionate husband found that his wife had suddenly disappeared during the week, and brought a good deal of cash away with her; he swore by her chastity, till the police discovered her living with one of his ex-clerks. He immediately ordered his bill for dragging the Seine to be sent him. The authorities state, and show by figures, that the outbreak of fever has nearly disappeared. The suddenness of the fall in the death-rate looks suspicious. It would never answer to give the city a bad name at the opening of its season. However, the rich may take heart of grace—they are only the poor who are "down."

General Billot, the minister of war, is a phenomenon, he is the twenty-first child of his family, and who as a rule are ever viewed as never do wells. It is needless to add his parents are not Normands.

Louise Michel, who is the representative of murder, being one of the fine arts, confesses that she sought to kill Napoleon III and Thiers. Gambetta was not worth that honor; besides he has politically performed the happy despatch. And to think the "Red Virgin" is at large, and not in charge of keepers.

In Madagascar, coffins are not made, but "built;" one generally forms part of the bride's trousseau. Friend to a poet: "And how do you get on?" Like soap, *mon ami*, ever diminishing."

To a coquette: "At what age did you first fall in love?" "Oh, you know, I never had age."

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